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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

PLEASE AMEND THE APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

In the Specification:

Please replace the first page of the Specification with the enclosed first page.

In the Claims:

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A purified and isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2[.], and
 - (b) a polynucleotide which is fully complementary to the polynucleotide of (a),
 - (c) ~~a polynucleotide representing a naturally occurring mutant or polymorphic form of (a), and~~
 - ~~(d) a polynucleotide comprising at least 25 nucleotides of the polynucleotide of (a), (b) or (c), said 25 nucleotides being specific for *murD* gene of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.~~

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide comprises nucleotides selected from the group consisting of natural, non-natural and modified nucleotides.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein the internucleotide linkages are selected from the group consisting of natural and non-natural linkages.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The polynucleotide of claim 1
wherein the polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of
SEQ ID NO: 2 comprising comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)[A] An isolated and purified
polynucleotide that is an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 1.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A host cell comprising [[the]] a
heterologous expression vector of claim 5.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process for expressing a MurD
protein of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in a recombinant host cell, comprising:

- (a) transforming a suitable host cell with an expression vector of claim 5; and,
- (b) culturing the host cell of step (a) in conditions under which allow expression of said the MurD protein from said expression vector.